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COMIC SHOP NEWS

A Brilliant Collaboration

Brian Bendis and *Mark Bagley* are far from collaborative strangers: after all, the two set records with their 110-issue run on ***Ultimate Spider-Man*** (the longest continuous run by the same creative team on any superhero comic in history). But their upcoming collaboration ***Brilliant*** is something different: it's the first time the two have worked together on a *creator-owned* project.

Brian Bendis explained how ***Brilliant*** came about and discussed the premise behind the series that focuses on superpowers in a world without superheroes. "A few years ago, HBO was kind enough to hire me to write a pilot for them for a series that they had optioned, based on the lives of a couple of the MIT blackjack kids. They were very nice guys, very *interesting* guys, and they let me into their world—and their world was the world of unfettered genius.

"So the project at HBO didn't go anywhere, but I had done so much research—not only about blackjack but about the lifestyle of geniuses on campus—that it started me thinking about what could be the next big breakthrough. What could a genius—or geniuses—create that could really turn the world upside down? And how would the world react? How would they treat *each other*? Hopefully, ***Brilliant*** is the answer to all those questions.

"***Brilliant*** is set in the real world; this is happening *today*. It's set at a fictional Seattle nouveau Ivy League school where the geniuses of the next generation have gathered; a couple of them have challenged each other to turn the science fiction of superheroes into science fact. That doesn't mean this is a superhero book—because it is *not*. It is about what the world would really be like if a couple of kids cracked the code."

Who are the geniuses at the center of ***Brilliant?*** "Some very interesting young men and women by the names of Albert, Amadeus, Marie, and Izzy. We will meet each of them in the very first issue; as the story unfolds, you'll learn more and more about them.

"Each of them is brilliant—hence the title," Bendis said. "Each of them brings something very unique to the table; each of them sees the world for what it is and what it could be. Each of them is a little damaged. And each of them has a very specific agenda as to why they're really doing this."

When did the ***Brilliant*** concept first come about? "I can't remember the first time I broached the subject with Mark," Bendis said. "It was definitely before he went to DC. It was something I thought we should do a while ago, but other things in my life—and his—always got in the way of doing this with him. I definitely brought this up when we were finishing up our first run on ***Ultimate Spider-Man***. I knew this would be an outstanding experience for the both of us, and a *necessary* experience for Mark. He had not done a creator-owned book, and I knew how important the creator-owned experience is for anybody."

"Brian actually came to me with this just before I left Marvel for DC, as a 'Hey, stick around, we can do this' project," Bagley added. "I'd already made some verbal commitments and didn't feel that I could change course at the time. I told Brian I'd wished he'd come to me a few months before, but amazingly, Brian said he'd wait for me... he *loves* me! I didn't tell Brian I would definitely be back to Marvel after my DC commitment, but it was nice to know that this was waiting for me."

A book about ordinary people requires an extraordinary artist who can delineate a variety of faces, emotions, and personal characteristics without relying on exaggerated superhero anatomy, superhuman poses, and garish costumes to ensure character identifiability. And there are few more skilled at that than *Mark Bagley*, whose ability to convey character and emotion brought Bendis's human-interest scripts to life in many issues of ***Ultimate Spider-Man***. Bagley is surpassing himself with ***Brilliant*** in terms of depicting ordinary people. How challenging is that artistically?

"I'm trying to really solidify my drawing in this book," Bagley said. "It's a challenge not having the crutch of costumes to make the book come alive visually. It takes a bit longer to draw... this is really the first time I've intentionally tried to alter my 'style' to suit a project, and I'm still trying to work out the kinks. It does take a bit longer... but not really *that* much more."

Did all those human-interest issues of ***Ultimate Spider-Man*** help prepare Bagley for a book focusing on *people* rather than on *superheroes*? "They certainly did," Bagley replied. "I really found those parts of ***Ultimate Spider-Man*** to be as much fun—and as fulfilling—as any of the superhero stuff I was drawing. I really enjoy drawing the 'acting' that's involved.

What convinced Bagley, a veteran superhero illustrator at both Marvel and DC, that the non-superhero ***Brilliant*** was a "must-do" project? "Working with Brian on a creator owed book pretty much sold itself," Bagley said. "I have no experience with the creator-owned end of things, and Brian's an old hand at it. The idea itself just seemed novel and right up my alley: young characters, super powers causing them more trouble than good—it just seemed fun."

Bagley is one of the few artists in comics who is both talented and fast enough that he can tackle two series at the same time. How tough is it, juggling ***Ultimate Spider-Man*** and ***Brilliant?*** "Luckily, ***Brilliant*** will be bi-monthly so that means I'll be committed to eighteen or so issues a year, which for me is a comfortable pace," Bagley said. "I'm still getting used to having two jobs at once... seems when I'm working on one I feel I should be working on the other. I'm sure I'll work that out, though!"

One thing that's different artistically about ***Brilliant*** is that Bagley is working for the first time without an inker. "Brian and I have decided to try and go straight to color from the pencils," he said. "So I'm trying some new techniques to make that look as cool as possible. I'm still feeling my way through that process."

Do Bendis and Bagley see ***Brilliant*** as an ongoing series or a limited series? "***Brilliant*** is a long miniseries, so I guess that the best term for it is a maxiseries—but it's really something in between," Bendis said. "And if everything goes well this would be the first of a few. But we'll see how this one goes."

Bendis has written books that focused on young kids (***Takio***), teenagers (***Ultimate Spider-Man***), and adults (***Powers***, various ***Avengers*** books, and much more), but this is his first project to deal with college-age protagonists. For Bendis, that's part of ***Brilliant's*** appeal. "I consciously try to discover material and themes and things that are completely unlike the other books that I do—especially the other creator-owned books that I do," Bendis said. "It's exciting for me, and I think it seems exciting for the people who buy my creator-owned books. Almost unanimously they told me that that's what they want from me. I have a wide berth of things that interest me both artistically and narratively. I am just as interested in the ***Avengers*** books as I am in ***Scarlet*** or ***Brilliant***."

Brilliant sounds like the kind of book that would make a great transition to film or television. Any talks about that? "Although I had some surprising success lately in the television department specifically, what with the green-lighting of ***Powers*** and ***Ultimate Spider-Man*** animated series going into production, I really don't think of comic books as pitch vehicles for television or film," Bendis explained. "If it happens, *great*—but this is always about making the best comic book or graphic novel that we possibly can."

Oddly enough, Bendis and Bagley are simultaneously collaborating on two projects: in addition to ***Brilliant***, the two are working together on the current "Death of Spider-Man" arc in ***Ultimate Comics Spider-Man***. Bendis is effusive in his praise of his creative partner. "I am *Mark Bagley's* biggest fan. I just try to write something worth his time and talent—something that challenges him on every level. And then I stay out of his way! But it has been a lot of fun watching Mark discover the hidden beauty of creator-owned comics. It's fun to watch an artist discover things about himself and his talents that he didn't know were there."

What makes the Bendis-Bagley work so well together? "We are sort of like a well-oiled machine," Bagley said. "It's great working with someone who respects the craft as much as I do. We are both professionals who see what we do as a *job*—of course it's an art form, but bottom line, it's a job that needs respecting. It's amazing how easy it is to work together when that is your bottom line."

Bendis's initial Icon title, ***Powers***, has been forced to deal with numerous scheduling complications lately, but Bendis is confident that ***Brilliant*** will avoid those lateness problems. "I'm happy to say that both ***Scarlet*** and ***Takio*** have shipped on time all year long. ***Scarlet*** is five for five. I'm also happy to say that we have three issues of ***Powers*** drawn and in production. With ***Brilliant*** following a bimonthly schedule, like ***Scarlet*** has, I am looking forward to every issue shipping on time with a wave and a smile!"

And what's next for the Bendis-Bagley team? "Don't really know—but we do have some ideas!" Bagley said with a smile.

Brilliant #1 is slated for July release as a part of Marvel's Icon creator-owned line.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*

Raise the Sails Again!

It's been far too many years since comics fans last saw English-language editions of *Naoko Takeuchi's* ***Sailor Moon***—but that's about to change, thanks to Kodansha USA. The series will relaunch this fall with Takeuchi's two-volume ***Sailor Moon*** prequel, ***Codename: Sailor V***—a prequel that has never been published in the US before now! In ***Codename: Sailor V,*** teenager Minako Aino fights as Sailor V against the villains of the Dark Agency before she discovers Sailor Moon.

After the prequel wraps up, Kodansha USA will offer US editions of ***Sailor Moon*** on a bi-monthly basis, following the 2003 Japanese re-release format of the classic series. The original 18 volumes have been condensed into 12 volumes covering the main storyline, and two volumes dedicated to short stories. Each volume has gorgeous new cover art, retouched interior art and dialogue along with extensive bonus material from Takeuchi, and detailed translation notes.

"I'm very excited to reintroduce Ms. Takeuchi's work to her American fans," said *Yoshio Irie*, president and CEO of Kodansha USA Publishing. Irie is also the former chief editor of ***Nakayosi*** magazine in which the ***Sailor Moon*** manga was serialized. "As we continue to build the Kodansha Comics manga list, a title like ***Sailor Moon*** is the jewel in our crown. As the former chief editor of the work in Japan, I'm especially thrilled to finally release the prequel, ***Codename: Sailor V,*** to the many fans who have been asking for it at long last."

Look for ***Codename: Sailor V*** to premiere in September.

News from C2E2

Chicago's Comics & Entertainment Expo occurred on March 18th-20th, and most of the major publishers were there with big guests and big news. Here are some of the highlights from C2E2's three days of comics fun:

Dark Horse

•Dark Horse is already working on a new ***Mass Effect*** series for release later this year. According to Dark Horse editor *David Marshall*, "A few years from now, I think that ***Mass Effect*** is going to be a big and very complete universe in the same way that ***Star Wars*** is."

DC

•Chris Burnham has signed an exclusive with DC; readers can sample his work in recent issues of ***Batman & Robin*** and in the current ***Batman Incorporated*** storyline.

•*Kevin Maguire* has more plans for Tanga after ***Weird Worlds*** wraps up its six-issue run, but he doesn't know exactly where Tanga will appear next. "It's got to go *somewhere*, because it ends kind of right in the middle," Maguire said.

•*Gail Simone* said that Manhunter would return to ***Birds of Prey***, although she didn't say when. She also said that Huntress will play "a pretty big role in upcoming issues of ***Birds of Prey***."

•Look for Cassandra Cain, the former Batgirl, to return in the not-too-distant future in ***Detective Comics***.

•While DC is ending the *Freedom Fighters* series, DC's *Eddie Berganza* and *Bob Wayne* indicated that there are further plans for the team.

•***Wonder Woman*** writer *Phil Hester* talked about how much he was enjoying the book, and he's been given a lot of freedom to develop a spectacular story leading up to ***Flashpoint***. "We've got nothing to lose with her, because Flashpoint is going to change the character," Hester said. He also indicated that not only will people see the classic costume again, but "you're going to see every costume."

•"DC co-publisher *Dan DiDio* admitted that when he first heard about plans to resurrect DC's letters columns, "I was the one in the beginning who was against it." However, he said that the overwhelmingly positive response from readers (and letter-writers) has changed his mind and he's now quite enthusiastic about the concept.

•When asked who readers might look to as the breakout character in ***Flashpoint***, DC's *Bob Wayne* said, "the official answer is Cyborg."

•*Dan DiDio* said that ***Flashpoint*** combines two things that readers frequently asked for: the return of Elseworlds, and the launch of a major story event that will resonate throughout the DCU. "If you like Elseworlds, it's about that," he said. "But if you like big world-building—it's about that, too!" DiDio stressed that Flashpoint is "integral to everything we're doing," and "it's going to knock your socks off!"

•DC reminded fans that ***Booster Gold*** will be the only ongoing monthly DCU title that will tie in with ***Flashpoint***, since ***Flash*** is ending with #12.

•*Dan DiDio* said that, in the aftermath of ***Brightest Day, Adventure Comics*** would very likely transition from a second Legion title to a ***Showcase***-style book focusing on the ***Brightest Day*** characters who may not be popular enough to support their own series.

•DiDio also said that there are plans for Captain Marvel, although he didn't say what those plans were.

•Tired of late books? So is DC! *Dan DiDio* said, "it used to be a joke that, as long as you keep buying late books, we'll keep making them. Well, it's not a joke any more, because you stopped buying them!" He added that "we need to get our schedule under control," which is great news for fans less than fond of lengthy unplanned gaps between issues of a storyline.

•When asked if the Black Lanterns are gone for good, artist *Doug Mahnke* replied, "You know how, when you kill the living, they come back? Well, if you kill the dead, why *wouldn't* they come back?"

Dynamite

•While no one from Dynamite would confirm this officially, *Nick Barrucci* and the Dynamite gang gave every indication that they *would* be the publisher of a new ***Six Million Dollar Man*** comic book series based on *Kevin Smith's* unfilmed screenplay, with finished scripts by *Elliott Serano*. (If this approach sounds familiar, it should: Dynamite did exactly the same thing with Smith's unfilmed ***Green Hornet*** screenplay, which was one of the company's most successful titles in 2010.)

•Dynamite will launch their long-awaited ***Flash Gordon*** series in August or September; writer *Eric Trautmann* will be involved in the launch.

•Will Vampi, the futuristic version of Vampirella, appear under the Dynamite imprint? "Give us a few years," publisher *Nick Barrucci* said, adding that the publisher was trying to focus on the core series and a small number of limited series rather than saturating the market with various titles.

•*Jessie Snyder* is writing the Dynamite relaunch of the Chaos Comics line in ***Evil Ernie,*** which is slated for launch later this year. The book will chronicle a war between heaven and hell in which Ernie plays a significant role, establishing a foundation for a Chaos universe that will gradually unfold as Dynamite rolls out more Chaos-universe titles. Rather than rushing the line, Dynamite plans to build slowly, establishing the universe via ***Evil Ernie*** and adding a new title every three to six months.

•There *will* be a new ***Voltron*** title from Dynamite, but it's not on the schedule yet; the company wants to enlist just the right creative team before adding the book to their schedule.

•*Elliott Serano* will write the ongoing ***Army of Darkness*** title that continues after ***Army***

SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER

IN THE HIGH-RISE HOME OF DR. MICHAEL MORBIUS...
I FOUGHT HIM MINUTES AGO!
HE'S JUST PRETENDING TO BE ASLEEP.
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 3-28
HE'S NOT FOOLING ME...
STOP!
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
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of Darkness & Danger Girl comes to an end.
•Readers can look forward to more ***Project Superpowers*** series this fall, with writers such as *Jai Nitz, Jessie Snyder, Phil Hester, & J.T. Krul* on board to chronicle the super-team's exploits.
•*Garth Ennis* has two more ***Battlefields*** stories in the works.
•***Butcher***, the next ***Boys*** spinoff, will begin in July, courtesy of *Garth Ennis* and artist *Darick Robertson*, making his long-awaited ***Boys*** return.. Dynamite also revealed that director *Adam McKay* has secured the film rights to ***The Boys***.
•***Jennifer Blood*** has been so well received that the character will continue after the first series wraps up; *Garth Ennis* will plot her continuing adventures with *Al Ewing*, while Ewing will handle the script honors.

Marvel

•The creative team for the ***Punisher*** relaunch will be *Greg Rucka & Mark Checchetto*.
•*Joe Quesada* named the six artists who are the focus of the ***Marvel Architects*** promotion: *Mark Bagley, Mike Deodato, Stuart Immonen, Salvador Larroca, Humberto Ramos, & John Romita Jr.*
•*Mark Waid*, the new writer of ***Daredevil*** (where he will be joined by artists *Paulo Rivera & Marcos Martin*), said that the new series "is going to stay gritty, street level, but—with all due respect to the last ten years—it would be nice to finish an issue without feeling like I need a stiff drink." Readers can look forward to a renewed emphasis on superhero action.

•*Brian Bendis & Mark Bagley* will launch their creator-owned title ***Brilliant*** in July. The book deals with college geniuses who set out to "crack the code of super-powers," but it's not a superhero book as such. (See the cover story in this issue of CSN for more about this new series!)
•Don't look for Marvel to follow DC's lead and lower their prices to $2.99. Marvel's *C.B. Cebulski* said that, rather than lowering prices, Marvel would focus on quality and talent, making the books worth the $3.99 pricepoint. However, they will launch most miniseries at the $2.99 pricepoint and will evaluate all aspects of new series before deciding whether to go with a $2.99 or a $3.99 price.
•*Garth Ennis's* new Marvel project will be a MarvelMAX version of ***Nick Fury***, illustrated by *Goran Parlov*.
•*Brian Bendis* said that fans can look forward to a real bargain in ***Avengers #12.1*** (part of Marvel's "Point One Initiative"). "Since [artist] *Bryan Hitch* is a lunatic, it's almost a double-sized issue at no extra cost." The story will tie in to the upcoming Ultron storyline.
•In spite of the Spaceknight teaser in ***Avengers***, *Brian Bendis* said that Rom is *not* returning, because Marvel doesn't own the rights to the characters. "The day Marvel gets its hands on Rom, no matter what I'm writing at the time, he'll show up in the middle of that story."
•*Fred Van Lente* is cowriting the new ***Alpha Flight*** series, along with *Greg Pak*; the series will indeed feature the original team, "who are back—and are not dead!" ***Alpha Flight*** will tie in to ***Fear Itself***.
•***Fear Itelf: The Deep***, a limited series by *Cullen Bunn & Lee Garbett*, will feature Namor and Doctor Strange—along with "a couple of heroes we don't want to reveal yet," *C.B. Cebulski* said—leading some to describe it as a sort of Defenders reunion.
•*Rob Williams & Matt Clark* have been tapped as the creative team for the ***Ghost Rider*** relaunch.
•Howard the Duck will make an appearance in ***Fear Itself: Fearsome Four***.

Top Cow/Image

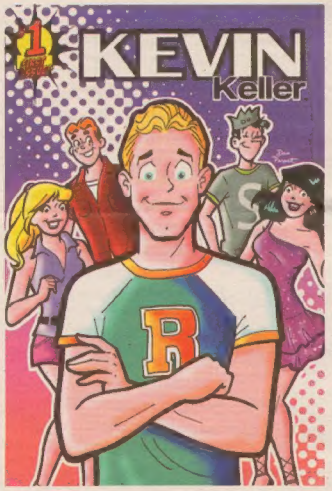
•*Jeremy Haun*, now exclusive to Top Cow, will take over as artist of Artifacts beginning with the ninth issue before moving on to ***The Darkness***.
•*Phil Hester* will be leaving ***The Darkness*** with #100; he didn't give away too many details, but he said that several characters who haven't been seen in quite a while will return in his final storylines before leaving the book. "Old scores are going to be settled in a big way," Hester said.

CSNsider

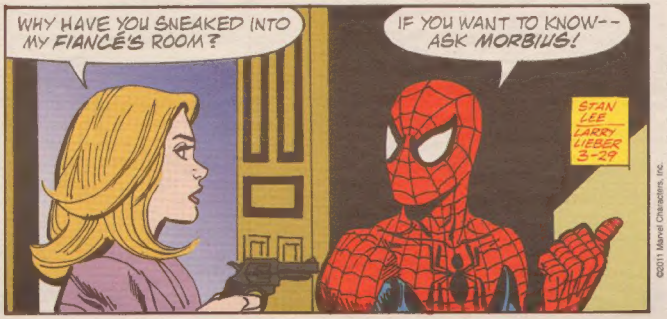
•Boom Studios has tapped artist *Francesco Biagini* to supply the visuals for the upcoming ***Elric: The Balance Lost*** series, featuring an original tale by ***Superman*** and ***Stan Lee's Starborn*** writer *Chris Roberson* starring *Michael Moorcock's* most famous fantasy creation.

"After seeing Francesco's pages for ***Elric***, there is no doubt in my mind that *Michael Moorcock's* legendary Multiverse is in great hands," Boom Editor-in-Chief *Matt Gagnon* said. "Francesco takes any story he's working on and turns it into a kinetic thrill ride on every page. It's only fitting that one of sword and sorcery's greatest characters is in the hands of comics' brightest talents!"

Readers can get their first look at Biagini's work in May when Boom and participating comic shops offer the ***Elric: The Balance Lost Free Comic Book Day Edition***, featuring an original prequel story that leads into the July series launch.
•DC will offer ***Flashpoint*** promotional pin in conjunction with the release of the sixteen ***Flashpoint***-related miniseries slated for June release. If you remember the incredible demand for the promotional rings offered in conjunction with various ***Blackest Night*** projects back in 2009, then you'll know why we're recommending that you talk to the folks at your friendly neighborhood comic shop to make sure that you don't miss these—because as DC warns, "quantities are limited!"
•Additionally, DC is re-offering the Flash promotional ring in conjunction with June's ***Flashpoint #2***. And once again, "quantities are limited!"
•DC has revealed the full creative team for ***Justice Society of America #50***, written by *Marc Guggenheim*. *Tom Derenick* illustrates Jay Garrick's inauguration as the mayor of devastated Monument Point; *Howard Chaykin* takes readers back to the days of the JSA's persecution by the United States Senate; *Freddie Williams* illustrates the disturbing rise of the new Per Degaton, and *George Pérez & Scott Koblish* illustrate "Cornerstone," a tribute to the Justice Society that shows how their influence shaped the creation of the Justice League of America. Look for it on April 27th.
•Explore the earliest days of the Riverdale gang in ***Archie Babies***, an graphic novel by *Mike Kunkel & Art Mawhinney*. This 128-page tale is the first original graphic novel ever published by Archie—and with ***Herobear & the Kid*** creator *Mike Kunkel* doing the story honors, it's a book you won't want to miss!



•Kevin Keller is back in the spotlight in June with the debut of his own limited series. ***Kevin Keller #1*** reveals more about Kevin's background before he arrived in Riverdale and met the Archie gang. *Dan Parent* is the writer/artist for this miniseries starring Archie's first gay character; look for the first issue in early June.


WHY HAVE YOU SNEAKED INTO MY FIANCÉ'S ROOM?
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW-- ASK MORBIUS!
STAN LEE
LARRY LIEBER
3-29
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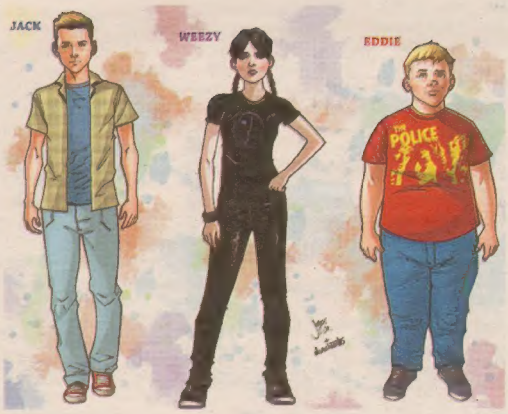
•Sea Lion Books has landed the comic book and graphic novel rights to *F. Paul Wilson's* young adult novels ***Jack: Secret Histories, Jack: Secret Circles,*** and ***Jack: Secret Vengeance.*** These books offer a look at the younger years of the author's signature character Repairman Jack, offering both a look at his formative experiences and clues to the origins of the "Secret History of the World" that is at the core of the Repairman Jack novels. The graphic novels, which will be scripted by *F. Paul Wilson*, will feature new material not found in the novels.



As Wilson explained, "The series follows the adventures of a 14-year-old boy named Jack, his best friend Louise 'Weezy' Connell, and her brother Eddie. Jack will grow into the mercenary known as Repairman Jack, but here in 1983, he is just a boy with a destiny." That destiny includes a knack for "repairing" situations, whether it's dealing with the troublesome teens who destroyed a neighbor's lawn—or protecting his friends and family from the dangers presented by the mysterious Ancient Septimus Fraternal Order.

Jack is a kid nobody knows—not his parents, not his few friends, not even Jack. "Jack thinks he's a regular kid," Wilson said, "but forces of destiny are swirling around him, drawing strange people to his little town, which is situated on the edge of the mysterious and fabled New Jersey Pine Barrens, where strange lights jump from tree to tree and the Jersey Devil supposedly roams."

Jack: Secret Histories #1, featuring art by *Jorge Correa Jr.* is slated for release in the last half of 2011.

Coming Comics—Marvel in June

Paul Jenkins & Carmine Di Giandomenico take readers back to WWII for ***All-Winners Squad: Band of Heroes,*** an eight-part miniseries spotlighting the toughest, most exceptional band of soldiers in American military history.

The original Alpha Flight—Sasquatch, Snowbird, Northstar, Aurora, the Guardian, Vindicator, Shaman, and Marrina—return in the eight-part ***Alpha Flight*** series, a ***Fear Itself*** tie-in by *Fred Van Lente, Greg Pak, & Dale Eaglesham.* When their own country turns on the Flight and brands them traitors for the shocking actions of one of their closest allies, how will the newly reunited Alpha Flight survive?

The Wraith stands unmasked and all of her secrets are revealed. What will this mean for Spider-Man? Find out in ***Amazing Spider-Man #664*** by *Dan Slott & Giuseppe Camuncoli.*

Continuing their popular Art of series of movie tie-in books, Marvel presents ***The Art of Captain America: The First Avenger.*** Featuring exclusive production artwork, behind-the-scenes photography and in-depth interviews with the cast and crew, this 224-page volume provides an insider's look into the making of the highly anticipated film.

Brian Bendis & Chris Bachalo deliver a major shakeup to the team roster in ***Avengers #14,*** a Fear Itself tie-in that will also feature "a surprise event too shocking to be revealed."

During his dark reign, Norman Osborn attempted to mold super-powered teens to further his twisted agenda. So the Earth's Mightiest Heroes created the Avengers Academy to reverse his influence on these impressionable, would-be heroes. But what happened to the young men and women who weren't enrolled? *Christos Gage & Sean Chen* answer that question in ***Avengers Academy #14.1,*** a new-reader-friendly tale that's a part of Marvel's Point One Initiative. Then Hank Pym faces off against an adversary empowered by the evil at the heart of Fear Itself in *Christos Gage & Tom Raney's* ***Avengers Academy #15.***

From his cold Russian prison cell, Bucky makes a decision that will change his life forever in ***Captain America #619*** by *Ed Brubaker, Butch Guice, & Chris Samnee.* And in the Steve Rogers: Super-Soldier back-up, the first repercussions of Bucky's actions may destroy everything Steve has worked so hard for.

Learn all about Cap's allies and adversaries in ***Captain America: America's Avenger,*** a 64-page handbook.

The U.S. Agent, American Dream, Commander A, Captain America, and Captain America are recruited for the ultimate commando mission in ***Captain America Corps #1*** by *Roger Stern & Philippe Briones.* But what threat is so grave that two Captain Americas are needed?

Karl Kesel produces an all-new framing sequence for ***Captain America: Rebirth,*** which also features modern recoloring of classic *Stan Lee-Jack Kirby* Cap tales from ***Tales of Suspense #s 63 & 65-68.***

At long last, *Ed Brubaker & Sean Phillips* return to ***Criminal*** in June with ***Criminal: Last of the Innocent #1.*** Riley Richards has it all—the hottest girl in school and a ticket to the big time—so why is he getting involved in gambling and drugs and shady characters in the city?

Peter David & Michael Lark continue Roland Deschain's quest for the Man in Black in ***Dark Tower: The Gunslinger—The Battle of the Tull,*** a five-part miniseries based on Stephen King's fantasy epic.

Sin leads the most audacious attack on American soil the world has ever seen as global panic ensues in ***Fear Itself #3*** by *Matt Fraction & Stuart Immonen.* Meanwhile, on Asgard, Loki hatches the scheme to end all schemes. And everywhere, the Serpent's presence is felt... never moreso than when a major Marvel hero falls at his hands.

As fear ravages the streets of Paris, a group of diabolical extremists plot an act of mass terrorism. In order to avert nuclear disaster, The Black Widow must brave a city in chaos in ***Fear Itself: Black Widow,*** a tie-in tale by *Cullen Bunn & Peter Nguyen.*

As the Marvel Universe is wracked with Fear Itself, only Deadpool sees it for what it truly is: a way to make money~ Has Deadpool really been chosen as one of the worthy, granted one of The Serpent's Hammers? Or did he just take any old hammer and go to town with some rhinestones? Find out in *Christopher Hastings & Bong Dazo's* ***Fear Itself: Deadpool,*** a three-part miniseries.

Sub-Mariner and Doctor Strange play a major role in ***Fear Itself: The Deep,*** a four-part series by *Cullen Bunn & Lee Garbett.*

In ***Fear Itself: The Home Front #3,*** Speedball has to flee for his life from angry mobs in the grip of the Serpent's fear... but now that he knows there are pockets of

MICHAEL, SPIDER-MAN SNEAKED IN HERE WHILE YOU SLEPT.
CORRECTION! WHILE HE PRETENDED TO SLEEP.
NONSENSE! I'VE BEEN ASLEEP FOR HOURS.
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 3-30
AND YET--
I DREAMT I WAS FIGHTING YOU!
!
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alanzfenz @ aol.com

resistance around the world, Speedball begins the most dangerous mission of all: to unite them.

Fear Itself is tearing New York City, and Spider-Man's right in the middle of it in *Christopher Yost & Mike McKone's* ***Fear Itself: Spider-Man #2***, protecting everyday people from themselves. But two days in, there's no sign of hope, no sign of salvation, and Spider-Man finds himself at the mercy of a foe even he fears: Vermin.

With the Initiative draft in full swing, young heroes are joining the effort to stem the Serpent's fearful tide—whether they want to or not! With Thor-Girl wrongfully imprisoned, her fellow Initiative recruits face a rising wave of paranoia and distrust from the very citizens they are meant to protect ***in Fear Itself: Youth In Revolt #2*** by *Sean McKeever & Mike Norton.*

Man-Thing has gone mad as fear consumes the world, and Manhattan will burn. The only heroes who seek to stop him have given into fear themselves, and no one is safe in Fear Itself: ***Fearsome Foursome***, a four-part miniseries by *Brandon Montclare, Michael Wm Kaluta, & Ryan Bodenheim.*

As the War of Four Cities heats up, the Universal Inhumans enter the fray! What role will the FF play in things to come? Prepare for epic battles, live lost and saved, and the awaited return of a beloved Marvel hero in ***Future Foundation #5*** by *Jonathan Hickman & Barry Kitson.*

A villain not seen since the days of Dark Reign, accidentally resurrected by Herc during Chaos War, has arisen to challenge Herc's role as the borough's protector—and the faceoff begins in ***Herc #4*** by *Fred Van Lente & Neil Edwards.*

A rescue mission goes wrong and Big Red finds himself pulled into a strange planetary system at war in ***Hulk #34 & 35*** by Jeff *Parker & Carlo Pagulayan.* Epic monster battles! Brazen warrior women! Space intrigue! And… King Red Hulk?

Johnny Storm has to confront the Wizard and the Hulk in ***Human Torch & Hulk: From the Marvel Vault #1***, a previously-unpublished tale by *Jack C. Harris, Karl Kesel,* and comics legend *Steve Ditko.*

Greg Pak ends his Hulk run with the six-part "Heart of the Monster" that begins in ***Incredible Hulks #630***— and he's taking the Green Goliath down with him! To protect

his beloved family, Bruce Banner has spent the last year sacrificing himself in titanic clashes with monsters, demons, and the gods themselves. But what happens when the furious monster inside Bruce Banner says *enough*?

The tale that began in the Spider-Man and Deadpool annuals concludes in ***Incredible Hulks Annual #1*** by *John Layman & Lee Garbett,* as Bruce Banner finally discovers why he can't turn into the Hulk in this world… but there's an unpleasant twist to that bit of otherwise good news…

The Golden Avenger himself begins to unravel at the seams in ***Invincible Iron Man #505*** by *Matt Fraction & Salvador Larroca.* So, when fear begins to wrap its icy fingers around the globe and the people need Iron Man more than ever, will Tony Stark be able to answer the call?

The evil forces of the Serpent sweep across the Earth—and it's up to War Machine, the Immortal Iron Fist, and the Weapons of the Seven Capital Cities of Heaven to stop two of the strongest in ***Iron Man 2.0 #6*** by *Nick Spencer & Ariel Olivetti.*

Loki needs allies to hatch his schemes.

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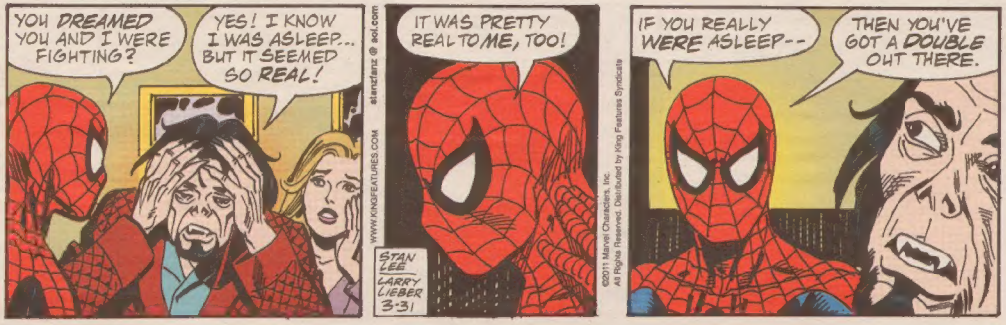
YOU DREAMED YOU AND I WERE FIGHTING?
YES! I KNOW I WAS ASLEEP... BUT IT SEEMED SO REAL!
IT WAS PRETTY REAL TO ME, TOO!
IF YOU REALLY WERE ASLEEP--
THEN YOU'VE GOT A DOUBLE OUT THERE.
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 3-31
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But what happens when the Trickster God cannot find a single one in Asgard? Well, he heads to the depths of Hel, wading through the dead to find someone to join his cause, in ***Journey Into Mystery #624*** by *Kieron Gillen & Doug Braithwaite*.

The blight of the Burning Season sweeps across the Savage Land, threatening to destroy everything Ka-Zar holds dear—and heralding the re-emergence of the mysterious Ether Tribe. It's up to Ka-Zar to save the Savage Land—and that's just what he intends to do in ***Ka-Zar***, a five-part miniseries by *Paul Jenkins & Pascal Alixe*.

Jonathan Maberry reveals the dark and terrible events that take us from the outbreak of a deadly plague to the beginning of the last war for planet earth in ***Marvel Universe Vs. Wolverine***, a four-part miniseries. A dreadful disease begins transforming everyone—human and superhuman—into savage, nearly mindless cannibal predators. Who will protect humanity? Well, the title of this book should answer that question…

Thor's confrontation with Galactus continues in *Matt Fraction & Olivier Coipel's* ***Mighty Thor #3***. Thor and the Silver Surfer must determine what to do with the Galactus Seed, the artifact with the potential to end the entire universe. And what deal is being struck between Odin and Galactus himself, behind closed doors?

The truth of the Avengers and their never-been-told-before origins have been revealed, but how will Nick Fury's shocking past save the life of an Avenger who's life hangs in the balance? Find out in ***New Avengers #13*** by *Brian Bendis, Mike Deodato, & Howard Chaykin*.

When the Norse Gods take up arms against humanity, The Valkyrie must choose which side to fight for—and with war raging all around her, the fate of Midgard may be hers to decide! Find out what choice she makes in ***Secret Avengers #14*** by *Nick Spencer & Scot Eaton*.

Jonathan Hickman & Dustin Weaver launch the second volume of ***S.H.I.E.L.D.*** this summer—and they kick things off with the secret history of Michelangelo.

Anya Corazon's dramatic saga comes to an end in ***Spider-Girl #8*** by *Paul Tobin & Clayton Henry*. With her roommate kidnapped and her life on the line, Spider-Girl uncovers the true identity of her father's murderer, but will the knowledge force her into an action that she'll regret for the rest of her life?

Supreme Power returns in a new limited series by *Kyle Higgins & Manuel Garcia*. A new era begins for the deadliest super heroes of all time! Hyperion has disappeared, and Dr. Spectrum has taken his place as America's greatest hero—and the military's greatest asset. But when the balance of super-power threatens the world, Hyperion's solitude may be short-lived.

When the Fear Itself hammer falls, The Raft is raised by one of its most powerful prisoners with a newfound weapon of the gods in ***Thunderbolts #s 158 & 159***.

"The Death of Spider-Man" continues in ***Ultimate Comics Spider-Man #159***, courtesy of *Brian Bendis & Mark Bagley*. Spidey has been seriously wounded and is hanging on to life by the thinnest of threads—which makes this the absolute worst time for the

EARLIER TONIGHT, I STOPPED YOU-- OR YOUR EVIL TWIN-- FROM ATTACKING TWO TEENAGERS.
NO!
MICHAEL-- WHY DO YOU LOOK SO SHOCKED?
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 4-1
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Sinister Six to bring the battle to Peter Parker's home turf! And the story reaches its climax in ***Ultimate Comics Spider-Man #160*** as… well, let's just point out that the book is polybagged, and that's *never* good news…

Rick Remender & Mark Brooks kick off "The Dark Angel Saga" in ***Uncanny X-Force #11***. Apocalypse is dead. His heir, Archangel, has picked up where his predecessor left off, amassing an army of En Sabah Nur's greatest servants! The only hope X-Force have of saving Warren Worthington rests in a dimension where Apocalypse and his technology, took over the world…

Rick Remender & Tony Moore present long awaited grudge match between Venom and Spider-Man in ***Venom #4***.

In ***X-Men Legacy #250*** by *Mike Carey & Khoi Pham*, the X-Men have escaped the Age of X and returned to Utopia—unaware that something sinister followed them back. Upon discovering that this new evil has been loosed into the world, Rogue and Magneto round up a team of X-Men to hunt it down. But is this motley new crew of X-Men prepared for what awaits them?

Marvel collected editions (solicited for June, July, and August release) include:

- ***Anita Blake, Vampire Hunter: Circus of the Damned Book 16—The Charmer TP***, collecting the five issue limited series.
- ***Ant-Man & Wasp: Small World TP***, collecting ***Ant-Man & Wasp #s 1-3*** and material from ***Tales to Astonish #s 44-48***.
- ***Avengers: Assault on Olympus Premiere HC***, collecting ***Avengers #s 278-285***.
- ***Avengers Vs. Pet Avengers GN***, collecting the four-issue miniseries and more.
- ***Black Widow: The Name of the Rose TP***, collecting ***Black Widow #s 1-5*** and material from ***Enter the Heroic Age #1***.
- ***Captain America by Dan Jurgens Volume 1 TP***, collecting ***Cap (1998) #s 25-34***.
- ***Captain America: Fighting Avenger GN***, collecting 120-pages of all-ages adventures.
- ***Captain America: First Vengeance TP***, collecting the four-part miniseries and more.
- ***Captain America: No Escape TP***, collecting ***Captain America #s 606-610***.
- ***Captain America: Red Menace Ultimate Collection TP***, collecting ***Captain America #s 15-21*** and the ***65th Anniversary Special***.
- ***Captain Britain Volume 2: Siege of Camelot HC***, collecting ***Spider-Man & Captain Britain #s 233-247, Marvel Team-Up #s 65-66***, and more.
- ***Daredevil Reborn Premiere HC***, collecting ***Daredevil Reborn #s 1-4***.
- ***Daredevil: Yellow TP***, collecting the six-part series by *Jeph Loeb & Tim Sale*.
- ***Dark Tower Omnibus Slipcased HC***, collecting ***The Gunslinger Born, The Long Road Home, Treachery, Sorcerer, The Fall of Gilead***, and ***The Battle of Jericho Hill***.
- ***Dark Tower Omnibus Companion Slipcased HC***, collecting ***Gunslinger's Guidebook, End-World Almanac, Guide to Gilead, Marvel Spotlight: Dark Tower***, and more.
- ***Dark Tower: The Gunslinger—The Little Sisters of Eluria Premiere HC***, collecting the five-issue miniseries and ***Sheemie's Tale***.
- ***Deadpool Volume 7: Space Oddity Premiere HC***, collecting ***Deadpool #s 32-35 & 33.1***.
- ***Deadpool Classic Volume 5 TP***, collecting ***Deadpool (1997) #s 26-33*** and more.
- ***Deadpool: Dead Head Redemption TP***, collecting ***Deadpool #s 900 & 1000, Captain America: Who Won't Wield the Shield***, and more.
- ***Deadpool Team-Up Volume 2: Special Relationship TP***, collecting ***Deadpool Team-Up #s 893-889*** and the ***Rank & Foul Handbook***.
- ***Essential Spider-Man Volume 10 TP***, collecting ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 211-230 & Annual #15***.
- ***Evolutionary War Omnibus HC***, collecting 472 pages of *Evolutionary War* excitement.
- ***Fantastic Four by Waid & Wieringo Ultimate Collection Book 1 TP***, collecting ***FF #s 60-66*** and ***Avengers #400***.
- ***Fantastic Four: The Overthrow of Doom Premiere HC***, collecting ***FF (1961) #s 192-200***.
- ***Fantastic Four: The World's Greatest Comics Magazine HC***, collecting ***FF: World's Greatest Comics Magazine #s 1-12***, featuring work by *Erik Larsen, Bruce Timm, Tom DeFalco, Kurt Busiek, Jeph Loeb, Stan Lee, Steve Rude, Dan Jurgens, Keith Giffen*, and many others.
- ***Generation Hope: The Future's a Four Letter Word TP***, collecting ***Generation Hope #s 1-5*** and more.
- ***Halo: Blood Line TP***, collecting the five-part miniseries.
- ***Hulk: Gray TP***, collecting the six-part series by *Jeph Loeb & Tim Sale*.
- ***Impossible Man TP***, collecting some of the zany green guy's most memorable adventures, beginning with his first appearance in ***FF #11*** and working forward to ***X-Force & Cable Annual '95***.
- ***Incognito: Bad Influences TP***, collecting the miniseries by *Ed Brubaker & Sean Phillips*.
- ***Kick Ass TP***, collecting the series by *Mark Millar & John Romita Jr*.

- ***Marvel Adventures Avengers: Captain America Digest***, collecting 96 pages of all-ages adventures.
- ***Marvel Adventures Avengers: Hulk Digest***, collecting ***Marvel Super-Heroes #s 9-12***.
- ***Marvel Masterworks: The Invincible Iron Man Volume 7 HC***, collecting ***Iron Man #s 26-38 & Daredevil #73***.
- ***Marvel Masterworks: Golden Age Marvel Comics Volume 6 HC***, collecting ***Marvel Mystery Comics #s 21-24***, featuring tales by *Stan Lee, Joe Simon, Jack Kirby, Carl Burgos, Bill Everett*, and more.
- ***Marvel Masterworks: The Mighty Thor Volume 3 TP***, collecting ***Journey Into Mystery #s 111-120 & Annual #1***.
- ***Marvel Universe Vs. the Punisher TP***, collecting the four-part limited series.
- ***Mystique by Sean McKeever Ultimate Collection TP***, collecting ***Mystique #s 14-24***.
- ***New Avengers Volume 7 HC***, collecting ***New Avengers #s 55-64 & Annual #3, Dark Reign: The List—Avengers***, and ***New Avengers Finale***.
- ***New X-Men by Grant Morrison Book 2 GN***, collecting ***New X-Men #s 118-121***.
- ***One Month to Live TP***, collecting the five-part limited series.
- ***Osborn: Evil Incarcerated TP***, collecting ***Osborn #s 1-5***.
- ***Scarlet Book 1 Premiere HC***, collecting the series by *Brian Bendis & Alex Maleev*.
- ***Secret Avengers Volume 2: Eyes of the Dragon Premiere HC***, collecting ***Secret Avengers #s 6-12***.
- ***Secret Warriors Volume 5: Night Premiere HC***, collecting ***Secret Warriors #s 20-24***.
- ***She-Hulks: Hunt for the Intelligencia TP***, collecting ***She-Hulks #s 1-4*** and more.
- ***Spider-Man: The Original Clone Saga TP***, collecting ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 139-150*** and ***Peter Parker #s 25-31, 149, 162-163, & Annual #8***.

- ***Thor: Blood & Thunder TP***, collecting 336 pages of cosmic drama from ***Thor, Silver Surfer, Warlock***, and more.
- ***Thor: Thunderstrike TP***, collecting ***Thor #s 431-433 & 457-459, Thunderstrike #1***, and more.
- ***Ultimate Comics Spider-Man: Death of Spider-Man Prelude Premiere HC***, collecting ***Ultimate Comics Spider-Man #s 15 & 150-155***.
- ***Ultimate Six Premiere HC***, collecting ***Ultimate SpiderMan #46*** and ***Ultimate Six #s 1-7***.
- ***Uncanny X-Force: Deathlok Nation Premiere HC***, collecting ***Uncanny X-Force #s 5-7 & 5.1*** and ***Astonishing Tales #25*** (the first appearance of the original Deathlok).
- ***Uncanny X-Men: Quarantine TP***, collecting ***Uncanny X-Men #s 530-534***.
- ***Wolverine and Jubilee: Curse of the Mutants Premiere HC***, collecting the four-issue miniseries and more.
- ***X-Factor Volume 11: Happenings in Vegas TP***, collecting ***X-Factor #s 207-212***.
- ***X-Force: Sex & Violence TP***, collecting the three-part miniseries and ***New X-Men Annual 2001***.
- ***X-Men: Age of X HC***, collecting ***Age of X Alpha, X-Men Legacy #s 245-247, New Mutants #s 22-24, Age of Universe #s 1 & 2***, and ***Age of X Historical Logs***.
- ***X-Men: Great Power Premiere HC***, collecting ***X-Men #s 7***-11 and more.
- ***X-Men: Second Coming TP***, collecting ***Second Coming #s 1 & 2, Uncanny X-Men #s 523-525, New Mutants #s 12-14, X-Men Legacy #s 235-237, X-Force #s 26-28***, and more.
- ***X-Men: Second Coming Revelations TP***, collecting ***X-Men: Hope, X-Men: Blind Science, X-Men: Hellbound #s 1-3***, and ***X-Factor #s 204-206***.
- ***X-Men: To Serve & Protect TP***, collecting the four-part miniseries.

Back to Press

- ***Butcher Baker, The Righteous Maker #1 2nd Printing*** (FEB118096), in stores this week.
- ***Venom #1 2nd Printing*** (FEB118103), in stores 4/20.

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IT'S TRUE, I TELL YOU!
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I ONLY DREAMED THAT YOU AND I FOUGHT!
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